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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the United States  
2 Army's 68th Medical Company's Medical Assistance to Safety and  
3 Traffic helicopter has served Hawaii for the past thirty-one  
4 years. This military aeromedical helicopter has transported  
5 over seven thousand patients and saved countless lives by  
6 transporting patients from rural areas, particularly in West  
7 Oahu and the North Shore of Oahu to tertiary hospitals. Located  
8 at Wheeler Army Air Field, the aeromedical helicopter provides a  
9 vital service at no cost to rural Oahu.

10           However, the legislature also finds that due to the  
11 increased military activity in Afghanistan, Somalia, and Iraq,  
12 the aeromedical helicopter may soon be deployed to those areas,  
13 leaving rural Oahu residents without aeromedical services. The  
14 legislature believes that providing intra-island aeromedical  
15 services to rural Oahu is necessary for the health and safety of  
16 residents and therefore is a matter of statewide concern.

17           It is not the intent of this Act to supplant existing  
18 ground or fixed-wing transport, especially for routine or non-



1 emergency inter-facility transportation. The aeromedical  
2 helicopter unit would use triage protocols to ensure the  
3 medically appropriate dispatch of the unit. Helicopter use  
4 would be based on national aeromedical triage and transport  
5 guidelines as established by the Association of Air Medical  
6 Services, the American College of Surgeons, and the National  
7 Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to provide  
9 intra-island only aeromedical services to rural Oahu.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$600,000 or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for a  
13 grant-in-aid to the director of health to contract with an  
14 existing government agency or United States military unit to  
15 provide intra-island only roto-wing aeromedical services for  
16 rural Oahu; provided that the emergency aeromedical helicopter  
17 services:

18 (1) Shall not supplant existing ground or fixed-wing  
19 transport, especially for routine or non-emergency  
20 inter-facility transportation; and

21 (2) Shall use triage protocols that are based on national  
22 aeromedical, triage, and transport guidelines

1 established by the Association of Air Medical  
2 Services, the American College of Surgeons, and the  
3 National Association of Emergency Medical Services  
4 Physicians; and

5 provided further that:

- 6 (1) One additional ground emergency medical services  
7 ambulance shall be provided until the specified intra-  
8 island only roto-wing aeromedical services are secured  
9 to ensure maximum emergency transport coverage; and
- 10 (2) The city and county of Honolulu shall share in the  
11 cost to contract with an existing government agency or  
12 United States military unit to provide intra-island  
13 only roto-wing aeromedical services for rural Oahu.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
15 health for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



**Report Title:**

Emergency Medical Services; Aeromedical Helicopter

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to department of health to contract with a government agency or U.S. military branch to provide intra-island only roto-wing aeromedical services for rural Oahu.

(HB2187 HD1)

